

Water Safety



Most people injured on personal water crafts are males.

Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention

In 2002, 4,174 people drowned in the United States.

- More than 80% of drownings occur among males.
- The drowning rate among African Americans is about 1.6 times that among whites.
- Alcohol use is involved in about 25% to 50% of adolescent and adult deaths associated with water recreation. It is a major contributing factor in up to 50% of drownings among adolescent boys.
- According to the U.S. Coast Guard, 734 people died in recreational boating incidents in 1999.

Nearly three-quarters of boating-related deaths were due to drowning; 89% of people who drowned were not wearing personal flotation devices.

Children and Drowning

Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14.

- In 2002, more than 1,500 children and young people (ages 0-18) died from drowning.
- For every child who drowns, another four are hospitalized and 16 receive emergency department care for near-drowning.
- Among children ages 1 to 4, most drownings occur in residential swimming pools. Most children who drowned in pools were last seen in the home, had been out of sight less than five minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time.
- African American children ages 5 to 19 drowned at 1.4 times the rate of white children in this age group in 2002. However, African American children ages 1 to 4 had a lower drowning rate than white children, largely because drownings in that age group typically occur in residential swimming pools.

Sources:

- 1- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 4770 Buford Highway NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724, www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/drown.htm
- 2- CDC MMWR June 2004, /53(21); 447-452

